

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested. The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action of February 27, 2004, in which claims 1-20 are presently pending. Of those, claims 1, 9 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin (IBM TDB), Vol. 38, No. 05 (May, 1995) entitled "Solder Plated Resin Ball", while claims 11 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,883,432 to Higashiguchi.

In addition, claims 1-10 and 12-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over IBM TDB, in view of U.S. Patent 6,337,522 to Kang, et al. and any one of: the publication entitled "Worldwide Trends in Flip Chip Developments" by Vardaman, U.S. Patent 6,441,485 to Glenn, or Japanese Patent 09323414 to Hiwada (translated by U.S. Patent 6,270,193). Finally, the Examiner has indicated on pages 7-8 of the Office Action that claim 20 would be allowable if amended to include the term "completed" interconnection. For the following reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

In lieu of amending claim 20, the applicants have instead cancelled claim 20 and amended claim 1, as reflected above, to incorporate the term "in substantially planar contact..." Since claim 1 already includes the terminology "completed interconnection," the resulting amendment to claim 1 is equivalent to the Examiner's suggested amendment to claim 20. In this manner, only dependent claim 11 need be amended to change its dependency from claim 20 to claim 1, rather than amending each of the remaining claims to be dependent from claim 20.

Accordingly, since claim 1 as now amended includes both the "completed interconnection" and the "substantially planar contact" elements, the §102 and §103

rejections to claim 1 and each of the remaining claims dependent therefrom have been overcome, and it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been entered and no additional fees are believed to be required. However, if any fees are due with respect to this Amendment, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,
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